



NO OTHER gODS

— 30 Days of Worship —

DAY 25

— *Molech / Safety / Voice* —

READ

Psalm 18

¹ *I love you, O Lord, my strength.*

² *The Lord is my rock and my fortress
and my deliverer,
my God, my rock, in whom I take
refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my
salvation, my stronghold.*

³ *I call upon the Lord, who is worthy
to be praised,
and I am saved from my enemies.*

⁴ *The cords of death encompassed
me;
the torrents of destruction assailed
me;*

⁵ *the cords of Sheol entangled me;
the snares of death confronted me.*

⁶ *In my distress I called upon the
Lord;
to my God I cried for help.
From his temple he heard my voice,
and my cry to him reached his ears.*
⁷ *Then the earth reeled and rocked;*

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the foundations also of the mountains trembled and quaked, because he was angry.

⁸ Smoke went up from his nostrils, and devouring fire from his mouth; glowing coals flamed forth from him.

⁹ He bowed the heavens and came down; thick darkness was under his feet.

¹⁰ He rode on a cherub and flew; he came swiftly on the wings of the wind.

¹¹ He made darkness his covering, his canopy around him, thick clouds dark with water.

¹² Out of the brightness before him hailstones and coals of fire broke through his clouds.

¹³ The Lord also thundered in the heavens, and the Most High uttered his voice, hailstones and coals of fire.

¹⁴ And he sent out his arrows and scattered them; he flashed forth lightnings and routed them.

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¹⁵ Then the channels of the sea were seen, and the foundations of the world were laid bare at your rebuke, O Lord, at the blast of the breath of your nostrils.

¹⁶ He sent from on high, he took me; he drew me out of many waters.

¹⁷ He rescued me from my strong enemy and from those who hated me, for they were too mighty for me.

¹⁸ They confronted me in the day of my calamity, but the Lord was my support.

¹⁹ He brought me out into a broad place; he rescued me, because he delighted in me.

²⁸ For it is you who light my lamp; the Lord my God lightens my darkness.

²⁹ For by you I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall.

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³⁰ *This God—his way is perfect;
the word of the Lord proves true;
he is a shield for all those who take
refuge in him*

REFLECT

This Psalm is very similar to 2 Samuel 22, except that in 2 Samuel, David was expressing his personal gratitude to the Lord. This psalm has been adapted as an expression of thanks for all the people of God for his rescue of everyone in the line of David. Because we are reading this *after* the time of Christ, *how much more* can we thank God for his protection & rescue? We have been adopted into the line of David, as co-heirs with Christ! Hallelujah!

Verses 4-6 begin to describe the desperation that we feel at times.

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Out of fear, it is so easy to turn to a false god, a false hope...anything that will get us out of that scary place!

Do you see a pattern in your own life of crying out to Molech during such times?

Do you run to your favorite addictions, tend to freeze up and feel like you can't function, or even start checking your financial account balances?

Do you ever wish someone "good luck" or tell them "fingers crossed!" when they are entering such a time?

These are all indicators that you are trying to battle your fears and enemy attacks apart from God.

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RESPOND

Read the first two verses of this Psalm once more, and use your app to highlight all the words that describe God...basically, all the words that follow the word "my." Now highlight all the times the word "my" is used in those first two verses, but use a different color.

Reread those verses, inserting your name for the pronoun "my," and *use your own words* to expound on all the descriptors of God. Think about, and name all the attributes of "rocks" and "fortresses," "deliverers" etc. All those things you've just described...they are *yours*. You *have them*, as gifts from God, because *you have Jesus*.

Now read verses 3-6, and if you are in a season of great distress

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right now, add whatever specifics you want to add, and cry out to the Lord about this situation as you read.

Retell of the Lord's rescue with your own words. Look at v.7-19, and use your voice as if you are performing a reader's theater, or retell the story, expounding the details, as if you are recounting it for a group of adventure-loving kids. Use your voice and your words to describe in detail the definitive and heroic rescue of the Lord.

Then wrap up your time by reading and expanding verses 28-30 in your own words.

If it helps, and if you can make the time, you can write all of this out, and read it aloud to the Lord when you are done. If you have young children at home, read this to them at dinner, with all the drama!

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If you are feeling rather uncreative today, use a Bible app to find this passage in the “Message” version, and read it aloud.

Either way, the Lord will be pleased to hear our uplifted voices as we worship him today.

